

Abstract of the Disclosure

In multimedia communication between a data sending device and a data receiving device through a communication line, a line state relating to transmission quality in the communication line is always detected in the data sending device, an operation mode corresponding to an error tolerance level optimum to the current line state is selected in the data sending device, pieces of media data are multiplexed to a stream of multiplexed media data according to a data multiplexing method relating to the selected operation mode, and the stream of multiplexed media data is sent to the data receiving device through the communication line. Because the line state changes with time, the data multiplexing method also changes with time.

When the line state deteriorates, a data multiplexing method corresponding to a high error tolerance level is adopted. Also, when the line state ameliorates, a data multiplexing method corresponding to a low error tolerance level is adopted. Accordingly, the media data can be prevented from being changed to faulty data or being lost during the multimedia communication, and the multimedia communication can be stably performed. Also, a transmission band for the multimedia communication can be efficiently used.